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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,085	11/30/2001	Young Choi	671-9 (P9961)	4362

7590 05/06/2004

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EXAMINER

PEACHES, RANDY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2686

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DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/998,085

Applicant(s)

CHOI ET AL.

Examiner

Randy Peaches

Art Unit

2686

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/03-11-02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. ***Claims 1-3, 6-7, 15-17, and 20*** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182).

Regarding ***claims 1 and 15***, Hansson discloses a hands free module (2), which reads on claimed “hands free device, for use with a mobile telephone (1), which reads on claimed “terminal”, the said mobile telephone (1) including an amplifier (26) for amplifying an audio signal that is received by the said mobile telephone (1), a switch (31) for selecting between a speaker of the said mobile telephone (1) an external speaker (see column 4 lines 6-7), and a female type connector which reads on claimed “output port”, for electrically connecting the hands free module to the said mobile telephone, the said hands free module comprising:

- The external speaker (14) electronically connected to the amplifier through the said female type connector. See FIGURE 2;

- And external microphone (15) electrically connected to the said female type connector;
- A module housing (11) for attaching the said external speaker and the said external microphone to a said mobile telephone (1). See column 2 lines 1-29.
- A conventional headset, as disclosed in column 3 lines 33-37, equipped with headphones capable of being worn by a user.

Regarding **claims 2 and 16**, according to **claims 1 and 15**, Hansson discloses wherein the said external speaker (14) and the said external microphone (15) are fixedly attached to the user at a position providing constant spatial separation. See column 3 lines 4-13.

Regarding **claims 3 and 17**, according to **claims 1 and 15**, Hansson further discloses in column 2 lines 24-26, that the said hand free module (2) comprises an ear bud.

Regarding **claim 6**, according to **claim 1**, Hansson further discloses in column 3 lines 42-44 and in FIGURE 3, wherein the said external speaker and the external microphone share a common housing.

Regarding **claims 7 and 20**, according to **claims 1 and 15**, Hansson further discloses in column 4 lines 8-11, wherein the switch is operable to switch between the said external speaker and the internal speaker.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. ***Claims 4-5 and 18-19*** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) in view of Hahn et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,078,825).

Regarding ***claims 4 and 18***, according to ***claims 1 and 15***, Hansson discloses a hands free module (2), which reads on claimed "hands free device, for use with a mobile telephone (1), which reads on claimed "terminal", the said mobile telephone (1) including an amplifier (26) for amplifying an audio signal that is received by the said mobile telephone (1), a switch (31) for selecting between a speaker of the said mobile telephone (1) an external speaker (see column 4 lines 6-7), and a female type connector which reads on claimed "output port", for electrically connecting the hands free module to the said mobile telephone, the said hands free module comprising:

- The external speaker (14) electronically connected to the amplifier through the said female type connector. See FIGURE 2;

- And external microphone (15) electrically connected to the said female type connector;
- A module housing (11) for attaching the said external speaker and the said external microphone to a said mobile telephone (1). See column 2 lines 1-29.

However, Hansson does not expressly teach of an external speaker driven by an external amplifier that is powered by an external battery.

Hahn et al teaches in FIGURE 10 and column 8 lines 16-19, of a headset system comprised of a speaker (24) that is driven by an audio amplifier (104) that is powered by a detachable battery pack (22).

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to modify the teachings of Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) to include Hahn et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,078,825) in order to provide a hands-free module functionally integrated with a separate means of powering and amplifying a speaker independent from the base mobile terminal.

Regarding **claims 5 and 19**, as the above combination of Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) and Hahn et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,078,825) are made, the combination according to **claims 4 and 18**; further teaches, as disclosed by Hahn et al in FIGURE 3 column 2 lines 1-14, where the external/wearable speaker and the external microphone share a common housing.

3. **Claims 8-9 and 21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) in view of Kashiwamura (U.S. Publication Number 2002/0016188 A1).

Regarding **claim 8**, according to **claim 7**, Hansson discloses wherein the switch is operable to swap between the said external speaker and the internal speaker.

However, Hansson does not expressly disclose where the mode select switch, the external speaker, and the external microphone share a common housing.

Kashiwamura teaches in FIGURE 1 and paragraphs [0031, 0033], where a headset is displayed with a earphone 3b, which reads on claimed "external speaker" and a microphone 3c, which reads on claimed "external microphone", as well as, the communication start and end button 3e, which reads on claimed "mode switch", is located within the same housing.

Therefore at the time of the invention one of ordinary skill in the art would modify the teaching of Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) to include Kashiwamura (U.S. Publication Number 2002/0016188 A1) in order to provide an operable external hand free module capable of facilitating an external speaker, and external microphone and switch on the said module.

Regarding **claims 9 and 21**, as the above combination of Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) and Kashiwamura (U.S. Publication Number 2002/0016188 A1) are

made, the combination according to **claim 7 and 20**, further teaches, as disclosed by Kashiwamura in FIGURE 1 and paragraphs [0033], that the said communication start and end button 3e and said microphone 3c share a common housing.

4. **Claims 10 and 11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) in view of Heeden (U.S. Patent Number 5,640,459).

Regarding **claim 10**, according to **claim 1**, Hansson discloses a hands free module (2), which reads on claimed "hands free device, for use with a mobile telephone (1), which reads on claimed "terminal", the said mobile telephone (1) including an amplifier (26) for amplifying an audio signal that is received by the said mobile telephone (1), a switch (31) for selecting between a speaker of the said mobile telephone (1) an external speaker (see column 4 lines 6-7), and a female type connector which reads on claimed "output port", for electrically connecting the hands free module to the said mobile telephone, the said hands free module comprising:

- The external speaker (14) electronically connected to the amplifier through the said female type connector: See FIGURE-2;
- And external microphone (15) electrically connected to the said female type connector;
- A module housing (11) for attaching the said external speaker and the said external microphone to a said mobile telephone (1). See column 2 lines 1-29.

However, Hansson does not expressly teach wherein the external speaker is slideably affixed to and substantially supported by a lanyard.

Heeden discloses in column 6 lines 6-10 where a device, comprising of a speaker, attached to a lanyard, which reads on claimed "supported by a lanyard".

Therefore at the time of the invention one of ordinary skill in the art would modify the teaching of Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) to include Heeden (U.S. Patent Number 5,640,459) in order to provide a speaker for a hands-free module capable of being supported on a lanyard around a user's neck.

Regarding **claim 11**, as the above combination Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) and Heeden (U.S. Patent Number 5,640,459) are made, the combination according to **claim 10**, wherein, as taught by Hedeem in column 5 lines 2-6, where the speaker is placed in the lower most portion of the housing, which reads on claimed "bottommost position" on the lanyard.

5. **Claims 12 and 13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) in view of Heeden (U.S. Patent Number 5,640,459) and in further view of Hahn et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,078,825).

Regarding **claim 12**, as the above combination Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) and Heeden (U.S. Patent Number 5,640,459) are made, the combination

according to **claim 10**, fails to expressly teach of an external speaker driven by an external amplifier that is powered by an external battery.

Hahn et al teaches in FIGURE 10 and column 8 lines 16-19, of a headset system comprised of a speaker (24) that is driven by an audio amplifier (104) that is powered by a detachable battery pack (22).

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to modify the teachings of Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) and Heeden (U.S. Patent Number 5,640,459) to further include Hahn et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,078,825) in order to provide a hands-free module functionally integrated with a separate means of powering and amplifying a speaker independent from the base mobile terminal and operable to be supported on a lanyard.

Regarding **claim 13**, as the above combination Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182), Heeden (U.S. Patent Number 5,640,459) and Hahn et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,078,825) are made, the combination according to **claim 10**, wherein, as disclosed by Hahn et al in FIGURE 3 column 2 lines 1-14, where the external speaker and the external microphone share a common housing.

6. **Claim 14** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) in view of Heeden (U.S. Patent Number 5,640,459) and in further view of Richenstein et al (U.S. Publication Number 2003/0083024 A1).

Regarding **claim 14**, according to **claim 1**, Hansson discloses a hands free module (2), which reads on claimed "hands free device, for use with a mobile telephone (1), which reads on claimed "terminal", the said mobile telephone (1) including an amplifier (26) for amplifying an audio signal that is received by the said mobile telephone (1), a switch (31) for selecting between a speaker of the said mobile telephone (1) an external speaker (see column 4 lines 6-7), and a female type connector which reads on claimed "output port", for electrically connecting the hands free module to the said mobile telephone, the said hands free module comprising:

- The external speaker (14) electronically connected to the amplifier through the said female type connector. See FIGURE 2;
- And external microphone (15) electrically connected to the said female type connector;
- A module housing (11) for attaching the said external speaker and the said external microphone to a said mobile telephone (1). See column 2 lines 1-29.

However, Hansson does not expressly teach wherein the external speaker is slideably affixed to and substantially supported by a lanyard.

Heeden discloses in column 6 lines 6-10 where a device, comprising of a speaker, attached to a lanyard, which reads on claimed "supported by a lanyard".

Therefore at the time of the invention one of ordinary skill in the art would modify the teaching of Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) to include Heeden (U.S.

Patent Number 5,640,459) in order to provide a speaker for a hands-free module capable of being supported on a lanyard around a user's neck.

However, the combination of Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) and Heeden (U.S. Patent Number 5,640,459) fails to expressly disclose a plurality of speakers in equidistant position situated on the said lanyard.

Richenstein et al teaches in paragraph [0076], of a plurality of speakers mounted on a headband.

Therefore at the time of the invention one of ordinary skill in the art would modify the combined teaching of Hansson (U.S. Patent Number 5,487,182) and Heeden (U.S. Patent Number 5,640,459) further to include Richenstein et al (U.S. Publication Number 2003/0083024 A1) in order to have a hands-free module capable of having a plurality of speakers positioned on a said lanyard.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Randy Peaches whose telephone number is (703) 305-8993. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha D. Banks-Harold can be reached on (703) 305-4379. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Randy Peaches
May 2, 2004

Nguyen VO
5-3-2004

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PRIMARY EXAMINER